**Import of Wheat**

609. KUMARI ALIA :
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI M.S. GURUPADA-SWAMY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to stats:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to import wheat ;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of wheat to be imported;

(c) the reason for import of wheat inspite of bumper crop and comfortable buffer stock position;

(d) the details of month-wise supply and off-take of wheat from PDS;

(e) the implications on the food subsidy;

(f) whether it is a fact that wheat is being exported ; and

(g) if so, the quantity and rate thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOl): (a) to (c) The Government have recently deicided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to increase its availability and to contain market prices. Value of the wheat to be imported will be known after finalisation of contracts.

(d) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(e) The extent of subsidy involved in the issue of imported wheat through the Public Distribution System will depend on the landed cost of wheat.

(f) and (g) As a part of emergency measures to generate foreign exchange earnings to cope with the critical balance of payments situation, the Government decided to export wheat. During 1991-92, 6-52 lakh tonnes of wheat have been exerted by ST.G./M.M.T.C. upto 15 February, 1992 on commercial basis at prices ranging from US £ 92 to US £ 109 per MT FOB.

**Statement**

*Allotment and off-take of wheat for the public distribution system from the central pool during January to December,* 1991

(In lakh tonnes)

| Month | Allotment | Off-Take |
|---|---|---|
| January . . . | 8.48 | 7.92 |
| February .... | 9.57 | 8.07 |
| March ..... | 9.99 | 8.44 |
| April ..... | 10.49 | 6.98 |
| May ..... | 10.68 | 6.80 |
| June . | 7.74 | 6.26 |
| July ..... | 7.86 | 7.63 |
| August ..... | 8.00 | 7.18 |
| September .... | 8.10 | 7.68 |
| October... | 8.65 | 7.83 |
| November .... | 8.68 | 7.01 |
| December..... | 7.83 | 7.27 |
| | 106.07 | 89.07 |